

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1244

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ROBIRDS, COLEMAN (Co-sponsors), HUNTER,
LUETKEMEYER, BARTELSMEYER, CRAWFORD, GASKILL, HENDRICKSON, HENDERSON,
BEARDEN, PHILLIPS, LEVIN, LAWSON, BARNITZ AND MILLER.

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TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

3246L.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 8.150, 211.185, and 537.045, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to parental liability for minor children.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 8.150, 211.185, and 537.045, RSMo, are repealed and three new
2 sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 8.150, 211.185 and 537.045, to read as
3 follows:

8.150. No person shall write or scribble on the walls or other parts of the facilities, or
2 mark the same with pictures or deface the same in any manner under the penalty of not more than
3 five hundred dollars to be recovered by civil action, before the circuit court of Cole County, in
4 the name of the state. If the offense is committed by a person under the age of eighteen years,
5 [he] **such person** and [his] **such person's** parent or guardian, as the case may be, are liable to
6 the penalty to be recovered as above directed. **If the offense is committed by a person who is**
7 **seventeen years of age and is an emancipated minor, such person's parent or guardian**
8 **shall not be liable pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, "emancipated**
9 **minor" means a person seventeen years of age who voluntarily leaves the care, custody,**
10 **and control of such person's parents, with or without such parents' consent, for more than**
11 **thirty days.**

211.185. 1. In addition to the court's authority to issue an order for the child to make
2 restitution or reparation for the damage or loss caused by [his] **the child's** offense as provided
3 in section 211.181, the court may enter a judgment of restitution against both the parent and the

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

4 child pursuant to the provisions of this section if the court finds that the parent has failed to
5 exercise reasonable parental discipline or authority to prevent the damage or loss and the child
6 has:

7 (1) Stolen, damaged, destroyed, converted, unlawfully obtained, or substantially
8 decreased the value of the property of another; or

9 (2) Inflicted personal injury on another, requiring the injured person to incur medical,
10 dental, hospital, funeral, or burial expenses.

11

12 **A parent of an emancipated minor shall not be liable pursuant to this section. For**
13 **purposes of this section, an "emancipated minor" means a person seventeen years of age**
14 **who voluntarily leaves the care, custody, and control of such person's parents, with or**
15 **without such parents' consent, for more than thirty days.**

16 2. The court may order both the parent and the child to make restitution to:

17 (1) The victim;

18 (2) Any governmental entity; or

19 (3) A third-party payor, including an insurer, that has made payment to the victim to
20 compensate the victim for a property loss or a pecuniary loss under subdivisions (1) and (2) of
21 subsection 1 of this section.

22 3. Restitution payments to the victim have priority over restitution payments to a
23 third-party payor. If the victim has been compensated for the victim's loss by a third-party payor,
24 the court may order restitution payments to the third-party payor in the amount that the
25 third-party payor compensated the victim.

26 4. Payment of restitution to a victim under this section has priority over payment of
27 restitution to any governmental entity.

28 5. Considering the age and circumstances of a child, the court may order the child to
29 make restitution to the wronged person personally.

30 6. A restitution hearing to determine the liability of the parent and the child shall be held
31 not later than thirty days after the disposition hearing and may be extended by the court for good
32 cause. In the restitution hearing, a written statement or bill for medical, dental, hospital, funeral,
33 or burial expenses shall be prima facie evidence that the amount indicated on the written
34 statement or bill represents a fair and reasonable charge for the services or materials provided.
35 The burden of proving that the amount indicated on the written statement or bill is not fair and
36 reasonable shall be on the person challenging the fairness and reasonableness of the amount.

37 7. A judgment of restitution against a parent may not be entered unless the parent has
38 been afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present appropriate evidence in his
39 behalf. The parent shall be advised of his right to obtain counsel for representation at the

40 hearing. A hearing under this section may be held as part of an adjudicatory or disposition
41 hearing for the child.

42 8. The judgment may be enforced in the same manner as enforcing monetary judgments.

43 9. A judgment of restitution ordered pursuant to this section against a child and his
44 parents shall not be a bar to a proceeding against the child and his parents pursuant to section
45 537.045, RSMo, or section 8.150, RSMo, for the balance of the damages not paid pursuant to
46 this section. In no event, however, may the total restitution paid by the child and his parents
47 pursuant to this section, section 8.150, RSMo, and section 537.045, RSMo, exceed four thousand
48 dollars.

49 10. The child may be ordered to work in a court-approved community service work site
50 at a rate of compensation not to exceed minimum wage. The number of hours worked shall be
51 reported to the juvenile officer and the compensation earned for these hours shall be used for the
52 sole purpose of satisfying the judgment entered against the child in accordance with this section.
53 Upon application by the juvenile officer made with the juvenile court's written approval, the
54 clerk of the court of the circuit where the fund is deposited and where a judgment has been
55 entered in accordance with this section shall pay the compensation earned by the child to the
56 person in whose favor the judgment has been entered.

57 11. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, a judgment of
58 restitution ordered pursuant to this section against a child may be executed upon after the child
59 attains the age of eighteen years.

537.045. 1. The parent or guardian, excluding foster parents, of any unemancipated
2 minor, under eighteen years of age, in their care and custody, against whom judgment has been
3 rendered for purposely marking upon, defacing or in any way damaging any property, shall be
4 liable for the payment of that judgment up to an amount not to exceed two thousand dollars,
5 provided that the parent or guardian has been joined as a party defendant in the original action.
6 The judgment provided in this subsection to be paid shall be paid to the owner of the property
7 damaged, but such payment shall not be a bar to any criminal action or any proceeding against
8 the unemancipated minor for such damage for the balance of the judgment not paid by the parent
9 or guardian.

10 2. The parent or guardian, excluding foster parents, of any unemancipated minor, under
11 eighteen years of age, in their care and custody, against whom judgment has been rendered for
12 purposely causing personal injury to any individual, shall be liable for the payment for that
13 judgment up to an amount not to exceed two thousand dollars, provided that the parent or
14 guardian has been joined as a party defendant in the original action. The judgment provided in
15 this subsection to be paid shall be paid to the person injured, but such payment shall not be a bar
16 to any criminal action or any proceeding against the unemancipated minor for such damage for

17 the balance of the judgment not paid by the parent or guardian.

18 3. Upon rendering a judgment in any proceeding under this section, the judge may order
19 the parent or guardian, and the minor who damaged the property or caused the personal injury,
20 to work for the owner of the property damaged or the person injured in lieu of payment, if the
21 parent, minor and the owner of the property damaged or the person injured are agreeable.

22 **4. For purposes of this section, an "unemancipated minor" is a person less than**
23 **eighteen years of age whose parents have not surrendered the right to the care, custody,**
24 **and earnings of such person, and are under a duty to support or maintain such person.**
25 **A person seventeen years of age who voluntarily leaves the care, custody, and control of**
26 **such person's parents, with or without such parents' consent, for more than thirty days**
27 **shall be considered an emancipated minor.**